



CCNM Part of Environment for the Americas Shorebird Program for Latino Interns

Two of eight interns participating in the Environment for the Americas (EFTA) shorebird program will be working with the CCNM and a variety of its partners in the Monterey Bay area from March through August 2013. The EFTA shorebird program is intended to engage Latinos in natural resource careers and conservation actions. The interns will be involved in shorebird monitoring and outreach efforts. Funded by a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant under the America's Great Outdoors program, the EFTA seabird program is in collaboration with the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) at six sites. In addition to Monterey, the other sites include BLM's Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area in Oregon and Blanca Wetlands in southern Colorado and the USFS Copper River Delta in Alaska.



EFTA interns and staff at Point Piños at the end of the Monterey Peninsula (Monterey County, CA).

As a kick-off to the program, a training session for all of the EFTA interns and staff was held in Monterey, California, from February 26 through March 4, 2013. The week-long training included a classroom session by PRBO Conservation Science on seabirds and seabird identification and monitoring, and a field trip to the sandy shoreline habitat to see shorebirds first hand. CCONM manager Rick Hanks took the group on a morning field trip at the end of the Monterey Peninsula to observe Black Oystercatchers and other shorebirds in the rocky shoreline habitat. Other sessions included EFTA staff presentations on the use of binoculars, bird identification, natural resource careers, outreach techniques, as well as field tours of the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve to observe shorebirds in the estuarine and mudflats habitat and the Monterey Bay Aquarium where the interns could observe shorebirds up-close in the shorebird exhibit.



Future bean counter? EFTA interns learn to estimate shorebird counting using beans.



In the field, EFTA interns got to observe shorebirds using spotting scopes.



PRBO Conservation Science Khara Strum discusses shorebird identification.



EFTA interns and Staff with PRBO Conservation Science shorebird biologist along sandy shoreline.

The two CCNM interns will be working out of Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), a CCNM Core-Managing Partner. The two interns will have the opportunity to participate in various shorebird monitoring activities at Elkhorn Slough, conduct Black Oystercatcher monitoring and initiating a survey of rocky habitat shorebirds on a portion of the CCNM, work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (a CCNM Collaborative Partner) on the Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge with a shorebird survey and also be involved in the development of an avocet study on the refuge, and observe PRBO Conservation Science's (a CCNM Collaborative Partner) Snowy Plover monitoring on California State Parks (a CCNM Core-Managing Partner) units and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's (a CCNM Collaborative Partner) Beach COMBERS monthly survey. In addition, the CCNM interns will be involved in a variety of outreach initiatives with the local Latino communities, including leading tours at Elkhorn Slough and assisting Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's MERITO program with field trips to Elkhorn Slough, as well as participating in bird festivals and conducting outreach programs.

Environment for the Americas (EFTA) provides information and education materials about birds, bird conservation, and bird education from Canada to South America in order to inspire people of all ages to get outdoors, learn about birds, and take part in their conservation. Known for their signature program, International Migratory Bird Day, EFTA also has programs that connect people year-round.

- Rick Hanks, BLM California Coastal National Monument Manager (March 5, 2012)